

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9578

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0171

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FI, XT

SUBJECT: HELSINGOR MEETING OF SOCIALIST LEADERS

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1. FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) PLANNING SECRETARY

PAAVO LIPPONEN BRIEFED POLITICAL COUNSELOR ON HELSINGOR MEETING OF SOCIALIST AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERS. LIPPONEN, ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY DESIGNATED A MEMBER OF SDP DELEGATION, WAS UNABLE ATTEND MEETING DUE TO ILLNESS BUT HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN THOROUGHLY BRIEFED BY SDP CHAIRMAN FOREIGN MINISTER SORSA. ACCORDING TO LIPPONEN FINNISH SDP FOUND MEETING USEFUL, IF SOMEWHAT UNWIELDY BECAUSE OF ITS SIZE. LIKE MANY OTHER DELEGATIONS, FINNS PLAYED ONLY PERIPHERAL ROLE AT MEETING.

2. LIPPONEN SAID THAT MEETING HAD BEEN DOMINATED BY SCHMIDT, BRANDT, MITTERAND AND PALME. HE MENTIONED THAT SCHMIDT HAD "LECTURED" MEETING ON BENEFITS OF LETTING FREE MARKET FORCES PREVAIL. ACCORDING TO LIPPONEN, PALME HAD DISAGREED WITH SCHMIDT ON THIS AND HAD BEEN ABLE TO FORCE SCHMIDT TO ADMIT THAT THERE ARE EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT GUIDING HAND (READ SWEDEN).

3. LIPPONEN SAID THAT PORTUGAL AND SPAIN HAD BEEN PROMINENT AGENDA ITEMS. HE SAID THAT SOARES HAD APPEARED QUITE CONFIDENT THAT SITUATION WAS IN HAND IN PORTUGAL, BUT THAT SOARES AT SAME TIME EXPECTED SUPPORT FOR SOCIALISTS TO DECLINE TO ABOUT THIRTY PERCENT IN NEXT ELECTION. IN THE CASE OF SPAIN, LIPPONEN SAID THAT GONZALES HIMSELF HAD BEEN UNSURE OF HOW MUCH SUPPORT PSOE ENJOYS IN SPAIN, BUT THAT THE EXTENT COULD DEPEND VERY MUCH ON DEGREE AND SPEED OF RELAXATION OF CONTROLS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND STATUS ACCORDED COMMUNISTS.

4. IN DISCUSSION OF RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST PARTIES, LIPPONEN SAID THAT SORSA HAD BRIEFED HIS COLLEAGUES ON PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN FINLAND (WHICH INCLUDES FOUR COMMUNIST MINISTERS OUT OF EIGHTEEN), BUT THAT FINNS HAD OTHERWISE NOT TAKEN ANY ACTIVE PART IN DISCUSSION. LIPPONEN COMMENTED THAT GIVEN THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL SCENE, SI TOOK ONLY POSSIBLE POSITION, I.E. TO LET EVERY PARTY DECIDE FOR ITSELF.

5. LIPPONEN SAID THAT NORDIC SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAD
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UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO SUPPORT SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY BERNT CARLSSON FOR SECRETARY GENERAL OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. THEY HAD ALSO AGREED, SOMEWHAT LESS ENTHUSIASTICALLY, TO ACCEPT CONOR CUISE-O'BRIEN OF IRELAND AS NEXT SI PRESIDENT.
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